

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A gaming machine having a display means and a game control means arranged to control images displayed on the display means, the game control means being arranged to play a game wherein at least one random event is caused to be displayed on the display means and, if a predefined winning event occurs, the machine awards a prize, ~~the gaming machine being characterized in that~~ wherein the improvement comprises the display means ~~displays~~ displaying a plurality of spinning reels, each reel carrying symbols from a set of symbols, one of the symbols of the set being a scatter symbol and, in respect of at least one of the reels, the set comprising ~~more than one occurrence~~ a plurality of the scatter symbols, at least certain of the scatter symbols on said at least one reel being ~~arranged separated from each other~~ on the reel by at most one other symbol so that ~~more than one scatter symbol is able to be displayed simultaneously when the reels are in a rest condition and, when more than a minimum number of scatter symbols are displayed simultaneously at any one time when the reels are in a rest condition,~~ all the displayed scatter symbols ~~contributing~~ contribute to a single paying combination of the scatter symbols.

Claim 2 (original) The gaming machine of claim 1 in which the display means is a video display unit and the display of the reels is constituted by a video simulation of spinning reels.

Claim 3 (original) The gaming machine of claim 1 in which the set of symbols on each of the reels has more than one occurrence of the scatter symbol.

Claim 4 (original) The gaming machine of claim 3 in which the set of symbols of each reel has at least two scatter symbols.

Claim 5 (original) The gaming machine of claim 3 in which the scatter symbols are positioned on each reel such that up to three scatter symbols are able to be displayed together at any one time.